

### REMARKS

The Office Action of August 25, 2004 is noted in which the Examiner questions the status of Claims 15, 16 and 17 and further states that Applicants have provided no remarks with respect to Claims 1, 15, 16 and 17.

From the records available to Applicants, the case was filed with only 14 claims. Thus it is unclear to what the Examiner is referring when the Examiner refers to Claims 15, 16 and 17.

Not only does the Applicants' copy of the case as filed indicate only 14 claims, but also the stamped return postcard states that there are only 14 claims in the case.

Thus Applicants do not deem it necessary to mention the status of claims that are not in the case.

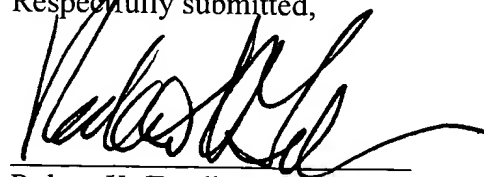
The Examiner has stated that there were no remarks relative to Claim 1 in the Applicants' last Amendment.

This is not true. In Applicants' last Amendment, Applicants stated that Claim 3 was being re-written in independent form.

The subject matter of Claim 3 was placed in Claim 1, thus re-writing the allowable subject matter in independent form. Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice.

Allowance of the claims and issuance of the case is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: Sept. 24, 2004